

National Consultation on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation in Local Development Planning

1. Background:

Enhancing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable communities requires innovative approaches to planning and implementation of local adaptation plans in the countries like Nepal. The planning and implementation of local adaptation plans should align with and add value to the current local development programs of the stakeholders such as government, non government and private sector.

In order to effectively implement local adaptation plans and generate greater impacts on enhancing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable communities, there is a need of approaches that facilitate i) easy access of climate vulnerable communities to finance required for implementation of urgent and prioritized adaptation interventions, ii) empowerment of climate vulnerable communities, their institutions, and local stakeholders to know, to do (prepare and implement) and to sustain climate change adaptation interventions, and iii) resource leverage and creation of synergies at local level to implement local adaptation plans. Hence, in the long run, such approaches help mainstreaming climate change responses in the local level development plans, programs and projects.

The national consultation on "Integrating climate change adaptation in local development planning" aims at,

- sensitizing stakeholders on the status, opportunities and challenges of integrating climate change in local development planning,
- receiving inputs on scaling up of existing local level initiatives for integrating climate change in local development planning with greater synergy and impacts, and
- identifying pathways to integrate climate change in local development planning in line with National Climate Change Policy, National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), and National framework for Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA)

The consultation expects to establish a common understanding among different stakeholders in integrating climate change adaptation in development planning.

2. Realities on the Ground

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), being the central secretariat, in coordination with the regional secretariats of the NGO Network on Climate Change (NGONCC): Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC), Ilam; Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), Banke; SAHAMATI, Nawalparasi; and Youth Acting for Change-Nepal (YAC-Nepal), Kailali organized regional level consultations in Doti, Surkhet, Kaski, and Dhankuta districts among regional and local stakeholders on the status of climate change integration in the regions. In addition, two district level workshops on integrating climate change in local development planning were also organized in Dang and Mahottari in collaboration with Human Welfare and Environment Protection Centre (HWEPC) Dang and Community Development and Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDAFN) Mahottari, respectively. Altogether 166 participants (20 female participants) attended these programs including 91 representatives of government organizations (Regional Directorates, DDC, District Line Agencies and VDC) and 75 representatives of non government organizations. These consultations and workshops identified the current situation of local adaptation initiatives and climate change integration, gaps and challenges, and required efforts to strengthen the ongoing initiatives and integrate climate change in the local development planning (detail in Annex 1) as presented below.

2.1 Current Situation of Integrating Climate Change Adaptation

In the 14 districts of mid and far western development regions, implementation of 70 LAPAs has commenced by releasing calls for expression of interests with the leadership of District Development Committee (DDC). In Nawalparasi district, DDC has led the District Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (DCCAM) Network with the involvement of government line agencies and NGOs working on climate change issues in the district. DCCAM Network has prepared a plan of action on adaptation focusing on the selected climate change vulnerable VDCs of the district. This kind of network has initiated sharing and learning among the district stakeholders and avoid duplication while implementing their programs. On part of government line agencies, there are meagre efforts on climate change adaptation oriented planning despite their business as usual plans of action to improve livelihoods, manage forest and other ecosystems, empower local communities, drinking water supply, and management of watersheds.

NGOs of the selected districts in all development regions are involved in the preparation and implementation of LAPAs and community adaptation plans of action (CAPAs) with support of various programs such as Multistakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP), Hariyo Ban Program, Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Program, and other project level initiatives and pilots. However, effective implementation of these plans is challenged by low amount funding and less efforts to leverage resources after the plans are

prepared and endorsed. Compared to government organizations, NGOs have integrated climate change adaptation interventions in their development programs that are related to capacity building, adaptation technologies testing and promoting, and policy lobbying.

2.2 Gaps and Challenges at Local Level

Despite the efforts made in the preparation of local adaptation plans and integration in local development plans the following gaps and challenges are shared by the participants of the consultations:

1. Inadequate coordination among GOs and NGOs for joint planning, monitoring and implementation of climate change related projects and programs
2. Lack of implementation and operational mechanism of LAPAs in VDC and low budget in the implementation of local adaptation plans
3. Inadequate understanding of climate change adaptation and ways of mainstreaming among local stakeholders

2.3 Actions Required for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation at Local Level

Participants suggested following actions needed to enhance understanding and integration of climate change adaptation in local development planning:

1. DDC should play lead role in coordinating local stakeholders for integrating climate change in the development plan,
2. Strengthen the role of DDC to lead integration and coordinate district stakeholders on climate change,
3. Empower local service providers and community institutions on climate change adaptation planning and tools of mainstreaming,
4. Establishment of coordination and monitoring mechanism at district and VDC level,
5. Agencies preparing local adaptation plans (eg. LAPA and CAPA) should engage and allocate sufficient budget for the implementation of plans with direct access of funds to climate vulnerable communities,
6. Extension of LAPA preparation in climate change vulnerable districts
7. Promote financing for local adaptation and empower local institutions to leverage resources and create greater synergies.

Annex 1: Key reflections of the regional policy dialogues

Topics	Far west	Mid west	West	East
Initiatives of Government Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAPA implementation commenced up at district level with DDC leadership in the selected district. • Line agencies activities are "business as usual" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAPA implementation commenced up at district level with DDC leadership. However its sustainability relies on the implementation mechanism. • Line agencies activities are "business as usual" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line agencies activities are "business as usual" • District climate change adaptation and mitigation network in Nawalparasi under DDC leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No especial activities designed related to climate change adaptation. • "Business as usual"
Initiatives of NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of LAPAs/CAPAs through MSFP, Hariyo Ban, and TAL programs • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of LAPAs/CAPAs through MSFP, Hariyo Ban and TAL programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of LAPAs and CAPAs through MSFP, Hariyo Ban, UMN; Climate Adapted Village (CAV) approach piloted in Nawalparasi by LI-BIRD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of LAPAs through MSFP • NCDC has used climate adaptation planning tools in the VDC periodic planning
Gaps and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate coordination among GOs and NGOs • Implementation of LAPAs at VDC level is slow • More expectation in preparation Less budget in implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate coordination among GOs and NGOs • Implementation of LAPAs at VDC level is slow • More expectation in preparation Less budget in implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate understanding of climate change among local stakeholders • Inadequate coordination among local stakeholders • Inadequate understanding of LAPA CAPA and NAPA • Resource constraints for CAPA implementation in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination among different stakeholders and government line agencies missing. • There are no elected local bodies and operational/implementation mechanism is not clear. • Limited capacity of both duty bearers and duty providers on climate change

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not know how to mainstream. • Stakeholders are seeking operational clarity.
Actions required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDC should play lead role to coordinate district stakeholders • Strengthen capacity of DDC and stakeholders to know and implement LAPA/CAPA and integrate climate change vulnerability and adaptation planning tools in their planning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDC should play lead role to coordinate district stakeholders • Strengthen capacity of DDC and stakeholders to know and implement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization and empowerment of local service providers and community institutions on climate change and adaptation • The coordination and monitoring mechanism should be well established at regional, district and community level • The sustainability of each and every activity should well establish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan preparation should be supported by effective implementation. Only preparing plans do not reduce the vulnerabilities of people. • Capacity building of stakeholders and communities is utmost in every stages of adaptation plans preparation and implementation. • Effective operational mechanism and structure should be in place to support effective mainstreaming.